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## PENNSYLVANIA DUCKS UNLIMITED WING WATCH

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**JANUARY 2009**

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Welcome to the second electronic edition of PADU Wing Watch. Publication will occur every quarter.

### **Pennsylvania Ducks Unlimited State Convention, March 27 - 28**

**Please tell me that you are not going to miss this year's celebration at Pymatuning!**

Pennsylvania is considered a leader in DU innovation, strategies and implementation. It couldn't be done without the fantastic team of volunteers in our state. This is our chance to celebrate and congratulate. Meet your fellow volunteers from across the state and have a great time at Pymatuning figuring out what works and what doesn't. There will be awards presented throughout the convention. We are really good at what we do and as a team we are damn good!

Consider this a weekend for the Ducks. Spend Friday and Saturday with us!

You and your family can have a great time. We urge you to arrive on Friday to meet everyone and visit the Hospitality Room. Saturday we will have our State Council meeting at the Pymatuning Management Building. In the afternoon we will tour the Pymatuning Wildlife Area and Erie Wildlife Refuge. During this tour you will see where many of our DU dollars are placed. SO - you really need to have a good reason not TO make it!

Lodging is at the Days Inn Hotel in Meadville, PA (814) 337-4264 and ask for special room rates.

There will be **Sportsmen's Night Out** event at the Hotel Conneaut on Saturday evening. Cost for the SNO is \$25.00 per person. Check the PADU web site for updated info.

When you load up the vehicle and head home Sunday morning, you will be on Ducks Unlimited overload. Thinking DU and what did I learn that will make my chapter bump it up a notch for 2009! Hopefully you will have your chapter committee members with you - because you will need help remembering all the great ideas! You are a part of the Pennsylvania Ducks Unlimited family. You will meet lifelong friends in this organization. You will cherish your successes in the DU mission. When you and your children stop to watch that flock of mallards over the marsh, field, or drop a line in your favorite fishing hole you will be proud to say "I helped make a difference. I have left this place better for my kids and theirs." Yes, we did!

**See you there!**

### **PADU State Gun Raffle**

The guns are a matched pair of Beretta 20Ga & 28Ga White Onyx Over/Under Shotguns. The raffle tickets are one for \$10.00 or three for \$20.00.

The chapter keeps all money raised from this raffle. The money raised in this raffle goes

in as raffle earnings on the chapters financial statement.

All stubs must be returned to the State Chairman by June 15, 2009. The drawing will take place on June 30, 2009 at a PADU event, to be announced.

**The PADU Chapter selling the most tickets will receive a gun to use at their event.**

**For more details check out the flyer on the PADU home page.**

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### **SPOTLIGHT ON OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS**

In this issue I would like to honor **Jim & Linda Buler of PA 022** as Outstanding Volunteers.



They went above and beyond to put the WHP in Birdsboro together and get it running.

That event would not have happened if it wasn't for Jim, Linda and their committee! I attended their event and can attest to its success.

## **New Committee Member Expectations**

While attending a Committee meeting the other evening, I heard a fairly new DU Volunteer bring up a point that I believe has merit enough to be shared. He was a respected businessman in the Community. He said something to the effect, "Often new volunteers come to DU Committee meetings once and then never return because expectations of their involvement are not made clear to them."

In today's world some of the most valuable volunteers can be business professionals who don't have a lot of time to spend listening to hunting stories or other topics that have little pertinence to their lives. Many business people come to DU to give generously of their time but don't expect their time to be 'wasted.' If all Area Chairmen or DU Leaders would concisely explain to new volunteers what's expected of them, those new volunteers may find more satisfaction from being involved.

For an average Committee member, selling 10 tickets is a realistic expectation for their first year of involvement. As new volunteers become familiar with the planning process they will likely discover other ways they can contribute.

But it's important, especially with new volunteers, to make it clear from the start that all they'll be asked to do the first year is to sell 10-15 tickets to the event (or whatever number a committee or Area Chairman feels is appropriate). This way, they can relax, get to know other Committee members and be confident their involvement is valuable and beneficial to the group's effort to restore wetlands! Area Chairmen should have an Agenda for each Committee Meeting. New volunteers will quickly discover that your committee is organized and have a specific purpose for meeting. And of course it's up to us as DU Leaders to coach Committees in this direction.

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## **Private Foundations and Major Donors Provide a Key Component to Restoration**

Ducks Unlimited is focused on restoring wetlands and associated uplands in the Commonwealth for the benefit of waterfowl, wildlife and the millions of people who depend on these valuable resources. Although science-based planning and research drive our work, implementation is not possible without adequate financial resources. Funding gaps, especially in the private sector, have limited our ability to restore wetlands in the Commonwealth.

Private dollars, like those provided by Foundations and Major Donors remain the most critical funding need. They not only provide the greatest flexibility for implementing science-based habitat restoration, but they also provide the non-federal match to leverage and secure public monies.

The most recent fund drive will challenge Ducks Unlimited to raise the bar for conservation giving. Ducks Unlimited has established a goal of raising \$200,000 in private pledges to fund conservation programs in Pennsylvania. Without volunteer efforts and private dollars we can not continue to put habitat on the ground.

Currently Ducks Unlimited is actively seeking donations to implement a large scale conservation projects in the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay and Lake Erie priority areas. Anyone interested in learning more about this conservation initiative can contact Scott Reinhart at [sreinhart@ducks.org](mailto:sreinhart@ducks.org) or Phil Poux at [ppoux@ducks.org](mailto:ppoux@ducks.org)

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## **Mellon Foundation Helps Restore Wetlands in Western Pennsylvania**

Thanks to the Mellon Foundation, Ducks Unlimited and its partners will restore over 55 acres of wetlands in western Pennsylvania. These projects will have a direct impact on water quality in Pennsylvania and beyond. Each restored emergent wetland will provide breeding habitat for local mallards and wood ducks as well as provide important food resources for migrating waterfowl in the spring.

The primary goal is to restore hydrology and control water levels. This will establish vegetation that naturally filters pollutants and provides prime waterfowl and wildlife habitat. Methods of restoration include plugging man-made ditches and drainage tiles, constructing low-level earthen berms and installing water-level control structures.

Partnerships have been a key component in Ducks Unlimited's conservation success over the last 70 years. As such, we will work cooperatively with many local, state, and federal organizations to realize the goals of this restoration undertaking. Some of our partnering organizations include the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

With help from the Mellon Foundation and our partners, Ducks Unlimited continues to successfully conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for waterfowl in western Pennsylvania.

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**Comments and suggestions are welcome. Email the publisher at: [senderoff@comcast.net](mailto:senderoff@comcast.net) Which volunteer (s) will be highlighted in our spring newsletter?**